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Growth in Western Australia's state final demand (trend chain volume measures) continued to accelerate over the last three quarters, rising from 1.3% (\$346 million) in the September quarter 2006 to 3.8% (\$1,083 million) in the June quarter 2007. Growth in the current quarter was the highest since the December quarter 2005 (3.9%) and was well above growth in all other states and territories, ahead of Queensland (2.4%), New South Wales (1.3%) and Tasmania (1.3%). Nationally, domestic final demand grew 1.6% in the June quarter 2007.



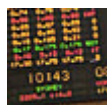
PRICES

Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.4% in the June quarter 2007, the highest quarterly increase since the September quarter 2006. The rise follows a period of decelerating prices growth in Perth, from a high of 1.8% in June quarter 2006 to a low of 0.2% in March quarter 2007.



CONSUMPTION

Growth in Western Australia's retail turnover (trend) slowed significantly, rising 1.5% (\$95 million) to \$6,295 million in the three months to July 2007, almost half the growth of 2.8% in the previous three month period. New motor vehicle sales (trend) in Western Australia rose 2.1% (640) to 30,576 in the three months to August 2007, compared to the previous three month period.



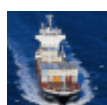
INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Private new capital expenditure (trend chain volume measures) in Western Australia increased 7.4% (\$354 million) to \$5,209 million in the June quarter 2007, higher than national growth of 5.3%. The number of dwellings financed for owner occupation (trend) in Western Australia has risen for six consecutive months to 8,824 commitments in July 2007, rebounding from eight months of rapid decline.



CONSTRUCTION

There were 4,579 houses (trend) approved for construction in Western Australia in the three months to July 2007, 1.1% (51) less than in the previous three month period. The number of house approvals (trend) in Western Australia has fallen for 18 consecutive months, between January 2006 and July 2007, by an average monthly rate of 1.1% (20 houses).



TRADE

Western Australia's international trade surplus continued to grow strongly through the year to June quarter 2007, rising 39.6% (\$2,746 million) to \$9,684 million. The value of Western Australia's exports rose 17.1% (\$2,283 million) to \$15,641 million through the year to June quarter 2007. The value of Western Australia's imports fell 7.2% (\$463 million) to \$5,956 million through the year to June quarter 2007.



MINING

Mineral exploration expenditure (trend) in Western Australia has continued to grow strongly, rising in each of the six quarters to June 2007, by an average rate of 8.5% (\$15 million) per quarter. Production increased across most mineral and energy commodities in Western Australia through the year to June quarter 2007.



TOURISM

In the June quarter 2007, there were 50,342 overseas visitors flying into Western Australia on holiday, 13.7% (6,083) more than in the same period of 2006.



LABOUR MARKET

There were 27,000 job vacancies in Western Australia in the May quarter 2007, 27.0% (5,800) more than in the same quarter of 2006. In the three months to August 2007, the number of employed persons (trend) in Western Australia grew 1.3% (14,800) to 1,116,600. The number of unemployed persons (trend) in Western Australia increased 7.5% (2,700) to 38,800 in the three months to August 2007, mainly attributable to more unemployed males (up 11.2% or 2,000).



POPULATION

The preliminary estimated resident population for Western Australia was 2,094,549 in the March quarter 2007, an increase of 13,582 persons (0.65%) from the previous quarter. The state's quarterly population growth was second highest behind Queensland (up 0.73%) but was well above the national increase of 0.46%.



SOCIAL TRENDS - POPULATION AND HEALTH

In 2006, there were 342,600 full-time students attending primary and secondary schools in Western Australia, an increase of 1.3% from the 338,300 in 2005. In 2006, 70% of 15-19 year-olds in Western Australia were participating in formal education, similar to the participation rate in 2005 (70%), but below the national average of 78%.

State accounts

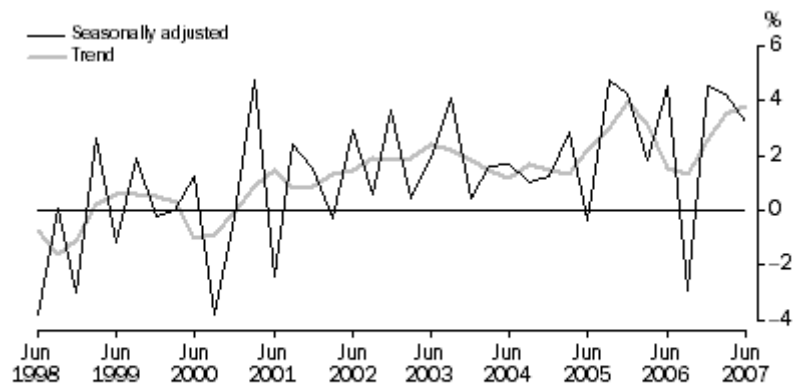


STATE ACCOUNTS

STATE FINAL DEMAND

Growth in Western Australia's state final demand (trend chain volume measures) continued to accelerate over the last three quarters, rising from 1.3% (\$346 million) in the September quarter 2006 to 3.8% (\$1,083 million) in the June quarter 2007. Growth in the current quarter was the highest since the December quarter 2005 (3.9%) and was well above growth in all other states and territories, ahead of Queensland (2.4%), New South Wales (1.3%) and Tasmania (1.3%). Nationally, domestic final demand grew 1.6% in the June quarter 2007.

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measures - Change from previous quarter



Source: Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product, cat. no. 5206.0.

In seasonally adjusted chain volume terms, Western Australia's state final demand grew 3.2% (\$925 million) to \$29,503 million in the June quarter 2007. The rise was mainly driven by private investment on machinery and equipment (up 11.2% or \$345 million) and intangible fixed assets (up 33.9% or \$217 million). The large percentage rise in intangible fixed assets was mainly due to investment in mineral and petroleum exploration. Household final consumption expenditure rose 0.8% (\$105 million) during the quarter, mainly on rent and other dwelling services (up 1.0% or \$22 million), purchase of vehicles (up 3.1% or \$20 million) and clothing and footwear (up 2.1% or \$12 million). General government final consumption expenditure recorded a fall of 5.0% (\$20 million).

Prices



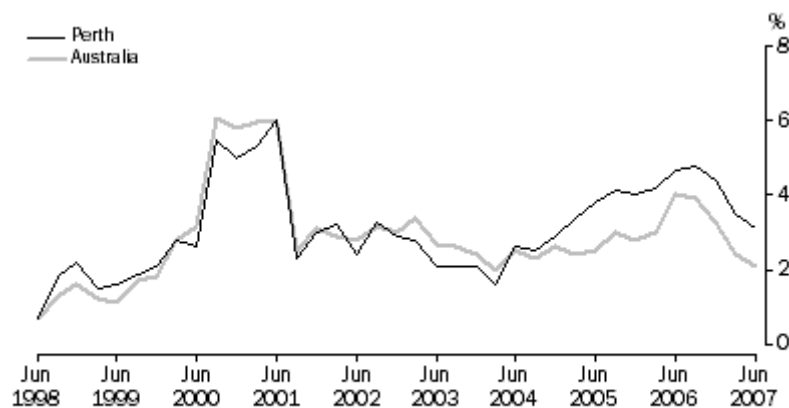
PRICES

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Perth's Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.4% in the June quarter 2007, the highest quarterly increase since the September quarter 2006. The rise follows a period of decelerating prices growth in Perth, from a high of 1.8% in June quarter 2006 to a low of 0.2% in March quarter 2007. Nationally, the CPI also recorded a sharp rise of 1.2% in the June quarter 2007.

The main driver of Perth's CPI growth in June quarter 2007 was automotive fuel (up 8.2%). Other significant contributors were rents (up 2.9%) and house purchase (up 1.1%), with Perth recording the highest increase in average rents ahead of Darwin (up 2.4%) and Brisbane (up 2.2%). Prices rose markedly for hospital and medical services (up 4.0%), mainly due to increases in private health fund premiums in April 2007. Fruit (up 8.7%) and vegetable (up 6.5%) prices also recorded strong increases, due to rising prices of bananas, berries, melons, stone fruits and fresh vegetables. Partially offsetting these rises were declining prices in domestic holiday travel and accommodation (down 1.6%) and overseas holiday travel and accommodation (down 1.6%), largely due to prices receding from the peak season highs in the March quarter 2007.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (ALL GROUPS), Change from same quarter previous year



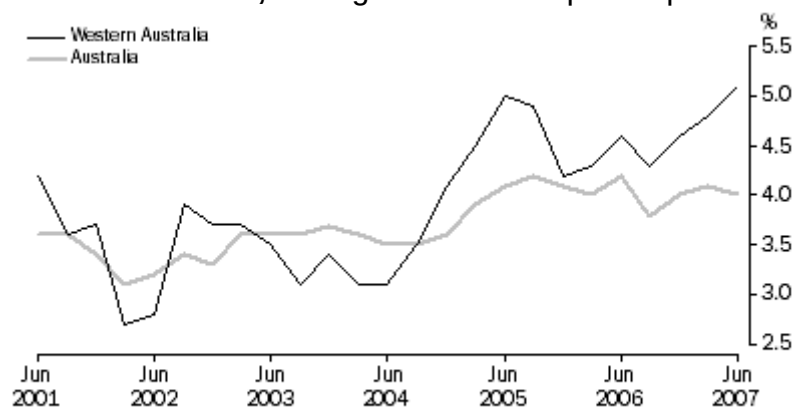
Source: Consumer Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6401.0.

Perth's CPI rose 3.1% through the year to June quarter 2007, following a rise of 4.7% in the previous period. In fact, Perth's CPI growth has continued to slow since peaking at 4.8% through the year to September quarter 2006. Despite this deceleration, prices growth in the latest period was much higher than the national rise of 2.1% and ranked second highest among the states and territories after Darwin (up 3.7%). The main contributors to Perth's CPI growth were house purchase (up 6.0%) and rents (up 9.6%) through the year to June quarter 2007. Aside from Darwin, Perth led the nation in price rises for house purchase and rents.

WAGE PRICE INDEX

Western Australia's Wage Price Index (WPI) of total hourly rates of pay (excluding bonuses) rose 1.7% in the June quarter 2007, following lower growth of 1.1% in the December quarter 2006 and March quarter 2007. Public sector wages grew 1.9% in the latest quarter, marginally higher than the 1.6% rise in private sector wages. Nationally, the WPI rose 0.8% in June quarter 2007, lower than the 1.1% growth in the previous quarter.

WAGE PRICE INDEX, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: Labour Price Index, Australia, cat. no. 6345.0.

Western Australia's WPI rose 5.1% through the year to June quarter 2007, the third successive period of accelerated annual growth. In contrast, the rate of national wages growth eased slightly to 4.0% through the year to June quarter 2007, following a rise of 4.1% in the previous period. In Western Australia, growth in wages was strong in the industries of government administration and defence (up 6.7%), personal and other services

(up 6.4%), accommodation, cafes and restaurants (up 6.3%) and property and business services (up 6.2%). From an occupation perspective, wages growth was strong for managers and administrators (up 6.4%), labourers and related workers (up 5.8%), tradespersons and related workers (up 5.6%) and professionals (up 5.4%).

Consumption



CONSUMPTION

RETAIL TRADE

Growth in Western Australia's retail turnover (trend) slowed significantly, rising 1.5% (\$95 million) to \$6,295 million in the three months to July 2007, almost half the growth of 2.8% in the previous three month period. Nationally, retail turnover rose 1.6% in the three months to July 2007, following growth of 1.8%.

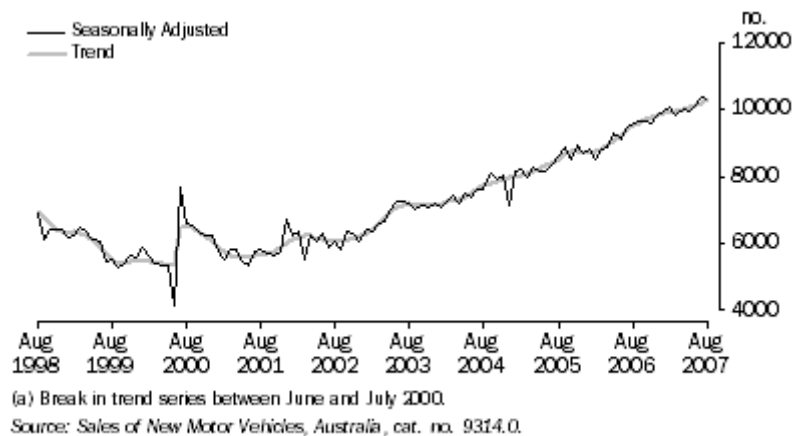


Industry groups detracting from retail turnover growth in Western Australia in the three months to July 2007 were household good retailing (down \$1 million or 0.1%), recreational good retailing (down \$1 million or 0.2%) and hospitality and service industries (unchanged). The main contributor to growth was food retailing (up \$66 million or 2.6%). Other major contributors included department stores (up \$11 million or 2.4%) and other retailing (including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, toiletries, antiques and used goods, garden supplies, flowers, watches and jewellery) (up \$10 million or 1.6%).

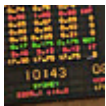
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES

New motor vehicle sales (trend) in Western Australia rose 2.1% (640) to 30,576 in the three months to August 2007, compared to the previous three month period. The rise was mainly driven by passenger vehicle sales (up 2.6% or 434), as well as sales of other vehicles (utilities, vans, trucks and buses) (up 1.5% or 109) and sports utility vehicles (up 1.6% or 97).

NEW MOTOR VEHICLE SALES



Investment and finance

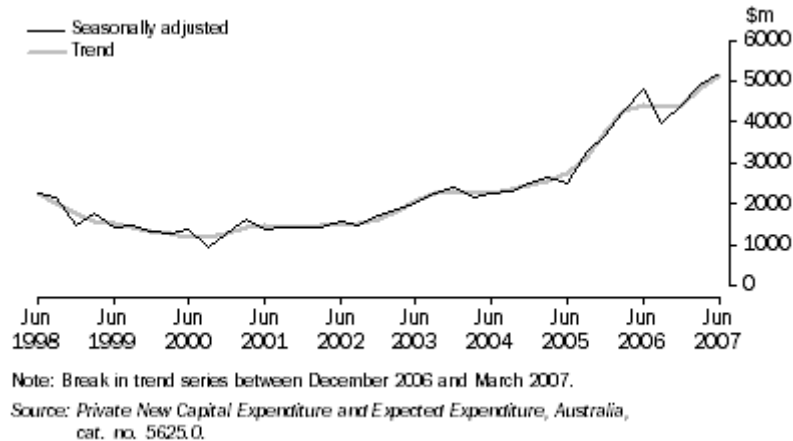


INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Private new capital expenditure (trend chain volume measures) in Western Australia increased 7.4% (\$354 million) to \$5,209 million in the June quarter 2007, higher than national growth of 5.3%. The rise in Western Australia was driven by investment in both equipment, plant and machinery (up 12.1% or \$216 million) and buildings and structures (up 4.2% or \$127 million).

PRIVATE NEW CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, Chain volume measures



In original current price terms, Western Australia's private new capital expenditure rose 11.1% (\$577 million) to \$5,778 million through the year to June quarter 2007. The main driver of growth was investment by other selected industries (including retail trade, property and business services and construction) (up 30.9% or \$351 million), followed by mining (up 4.6% or \$167 million) and manufacturing (up 14.1% or \$59 million).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS

The number of dwellings financed for owner occupation (trend) in Western Australia has risen for six consecutive months to 8,824 commitments in July 2007, rebounding from eight months of rapid decline. In the three months to July 2007, the number of dwellings financed rose 2.4% (606 commitments) compared to the previous three month period. This rate that was well above the 1.5% (373 commitments) increase in the three months to April 2007 (compared to the previous three months). The recent growth in Western Australia's housing finance could translate into a recovery in approvals for housing construction in the coming months.

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS, Number of dwellings financed



Source: Housing Finance, Australia, cat. no. 5609.0.

In the three months to July 2007, Western Australia's total value of finance for owner occupied housing (original) increased 21.0% (\$1,162 million) to \$6,706 million, compared to the previous three month period. The rise was attributable to growth in finance by both non-first home buyers (up 15.5% or \$761 million) and first home buyers (up 62.8% or \$401 million). Over the three months to July 2007, the average loan for first home buyers was \$246,100, \$3,800 higher than for non-first home buyers (\$242,300). The average loan for first home buyers grew 18.1% (\$37,700) in the three months to July 2007 (compared to the previous three months), much higher than for non-first home buyers (up 6.8% or \$15,400).

Construction

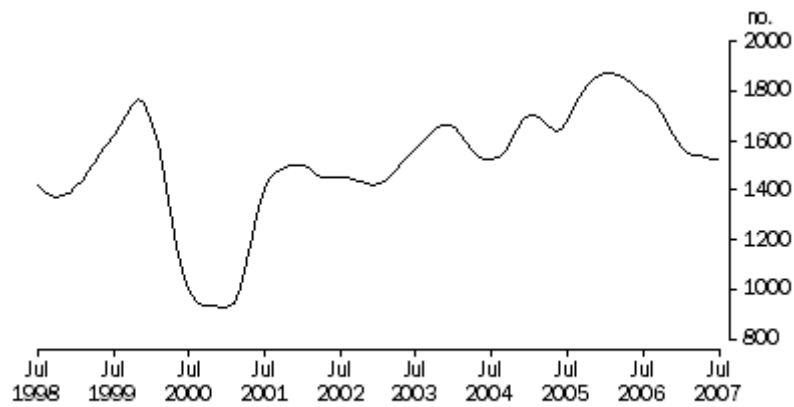


CONSTRUCTION

BUILDING APPROVALS

There were 4,579 houses (trend) approved for construction in Western Australia in the three months to July 2007, 1.1% (51) less than in the previous three month period. Despite the fall, the rate of decline had slowed significantly from the 5.0% (245) fall in the three months to April 2007 (compared to the previous three months). In contrast, other residential dwelling approvals grew 9.1% (104) to 1,251 in the three months to July 2007 - comprising semi-detached houses, townhouses, and flats, units and apartments.

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS APPROVED, Houses: Trend



Source: Building Approvals, Australia, cat. no. 8731.0.

The number of house approvals (trend) in Western Australia has fallen for 18 consecutive months, between January 2006 and July 2007, by an average monthly rate of 1.1% (20 houses). The decline has coincided with three interest rate rises by the Reserve Bank of Australia of 0.25% in May (5.75%), August (6.00%) and November (6.25%) 2006 and an increase in new house prices of 10.2% between the March quarter 2006 and the June quarter 2007 in Perth.

Trade



TRADE

BALANCE OF TRADE

Western Australia's international trade surplus continued to grow strongly through the year to June quarter 2007, rising 39.6% (\$2,746 million) to \$9,684 million. Notably, over the past four periods, Western Australia's trade surplus has risen at an average annual rate of 33.6% (\$2,387 million).

VALUE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRADE SURPLUS, Change from same quarter previous year



Source: ABS data available on request, International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, cat. no. 5368.0.

The countries making the largest contributions to Western Australia's trade surplus through

the year to June quarter 2007 were India and China, with the surplus rising 107.4% (\$981 million) with India and 38.8% (\$955 million) with China. Another major contributor was the Republic of Korea, with the trade surplus rising 393.9% (\$729 million). Notably, Western Australia's trade deficits with Switzerland (-\$36 million) and Malaysia (-\$178 million) in the June quarter 2006, became surpluses in the June quarter 2007: Switzerland (\$401 million) and Malaysia (\$36 million). Offsetting these positive contributions was a large fall in Western Australia's trade balance with the United Kingdom, declining 133.5% (\$1,585 million) through the year, from a \$1,188 million surplus in the June quarter 2006 to a \$398 million deficit in the June quarter 2007.

EXPORTS

The value of Western Australia's exports rose 17.1% (\$2,283 million) to \$15,641 million through the year to June quarter 2007. Growth was mainly driven by combined confidential items (up 40.1% or \$823 million), non-monetary gold (up 23.4% or \$576 million) and crude petroleum oils (up 43.9% or \$508 million). Western Australia's largest export commodity, iron ore and concentrates, generated \$3,980 million in export revenue in the June quarter 2007, after increasing 13.4% (\$471 million) through the year. Detracting from exports growth through the year to June quarter 2007 were exports of natural gas (down 20.1% or \$213 million) and nickel ores and concentrates (down 28.9% or \$99 million).

IMPORTS

The value of Western Australia's imports fell 7.2% (\$463 million) to \$5,956 million through the year to June quarter 2007. Much of the decline was due to falling imports of ships, boats and floating structures (down 88.5% or \$521 million), non-monetary gold (down 20.8% or \$381 million) and refined petroleum oils (down 43.6% or \$327 million). The value of imports did increase significantly however for crude petroleum oils (up 99.1% or \$282 million).

Mining

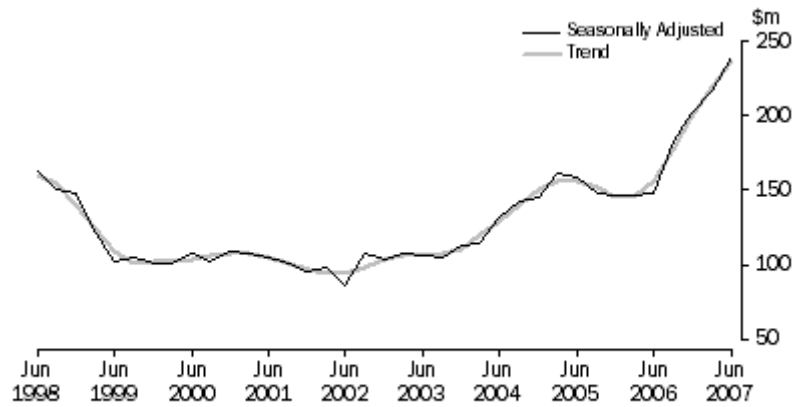


MINING

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE

Mineral exploration expenditure (trend) in Western Australia has continued to grow strongly, rising in each of the six quarters to June 2007, by an average rate of 8.5% (\$15 million) per quarter. By comparison, over the preceding six quarters, state mineral exploration expenditure rose only 1.8% (\$3 million) on average per quarter. In the June quarter 2007, Western Australia's expenditure on mineral exploration rose 7.8% (\$17 million) to \$237 million, higher than national growth of 5.0% (\$22 million) to \$471 million.

MINERAL EXPLORATION EXPENDITURE, Total minerals



Source: Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia, cat. no. 8412.0.

Western Australia's mineral exploration expenditure (original) rose 61.1% (\$96 million) through the year to June quarter 2007. Most of the growth was driven by exploration on iron ore (up 79.7% or \$38 million) and nickel, cobalt (up 110.0% or \$27 million). There was also considerable growth in exploration expenditure on silver, lead and zinc (up 155.2% or \$9 million), gold (up 10.7% or \$7 million) and copper (up 203.4% or \$6 million).

Petroleum exploration expenditure (original) more than tripled in Western Australia, rising 211.4% (\$357 million) to a record high of \$525 million through the year to June quarter 2007.

MINERAL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTION

Production increased across most mineral and energy commodities in Western Australia through the year to June quarter 2007. The largest increases were recorded in the production of zinc (up 75.0%), crude oil (up 40.7%), iron ore (up 7.8%) and electricity (up 7.6%). In contrast, diamond (down 40.0%) and gold (down 4.9%) production were down through the year.

Tourism



TOURISM

SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS ARRIVALS ON HOLIDAY

In the June quarter 2007, there were 50,342 overseas visitors flying into Western Australia on holiday, 13.7% (6,083) more than in the same period of 2006. Much of the growth can be attributed to more holidaymakers from Singapore (up 40.3% or 3,946), Malaysia (up 26.4% or 1,214) and Japan (up 10.2% or 418). However, there were significantly less holidaymakers from the United States of America (down 36.3% or 478).

SHORT-TERM OVERSEAS DEPARTURES ON HOLIDAY

There were 97,280 Western Australian residents departing on overseas holidays in the June quarter 2007, 24.6% (19,223) more than in the same period of 2006. Major destinations for these growing number of outbound tourists were Indonesia (up 65.4% or 7,816), Thailand (up 41.9% or 3,978), the United States of America (up 78.0% or 2,327) and Singapore (up 14.1% or 1,152).

Labour market



LABOUR MARKET

JOB VACANCIES

There were 27,000 job vacancies in Western Australia in the May quarter 2007, 27.0% (5,800) more than in the same quarter of 2006. Both the private (up 26.9% or 5,400) and public (up 28.9% or 400) sectors contributed to the rise through the year. Higher job vacancies in the May quarter 2007 indicates a potential rise in employment in Western Australia during the second half of 2007, given jobs can be adequately filled by the available labour supply.

EMPLOYMENT

In the three months to August 2007, the number of employed persons (trend) in Western Australia grew 1.3% (14,800) to 1,116,600. This followed a slightly lower increase of 1.1% (12,500) in the previous three month period. During the latest three months, employment growth was driven by full-time employment (up 2.1% or 16,600), with more male (up 1.8% or 9,500) and female (up 2.8% or 7,100) full-time workers in the state. In contrast, part-time employment declined by an estimated 0.6% (1,800) to 316,100 in the three months to August 2007, solely attributable to declining male part-time workers (down 3.3% or 2,800). Female part-time employment grew 0.4% (1,000) over the period.

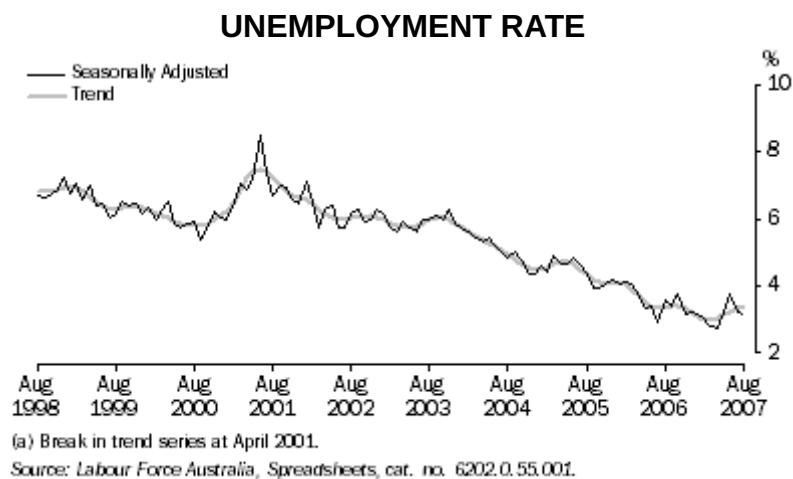


The major industries contributing to Western Australia's employment growth (original) of 4.2% (45,100) through the year to August 2007 were health and community services (up 14.1% or 14,200), property and business services (up 8.2% or 10,900) and retail trade (up

5.5% or 8,100). From an occupation perspective, employment growth was strong for professionals (up 18.0% or 34,600), managers and administrators (up 14.0% or 10,800) and intermediate production and transport workers (up 7.7% or 7,400). Surprisingly, in light of on-going skills shortages, there were 6.8% (10,800) less tradespersons and related workers in the state in August 2007, than a year ago.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The number of unemployed persons (trend) in Western Australia increased 7.5% (2,700) to 38,800 in the three months to August 2007, mainly attributable to more unemployed males (up 11.2% or 2,000). Over the same period, Western Australia's unemployment rate (trend) rose from 3.2% in May 2007 to 3.4% in August 2007. Nationally, the unemployment rate remained steady at 4.3% over the three months to August 2007. Partly explaining the rise in unemployment in Western Australia was an increase in people participating in the state's labour force, with the participation rate rising from 67.9% of the state's civilian population in May 2007 to 68.6% in August 2007.



Population



POPULATION

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The preliminary estimated resident population for Western Australia was 2,094,549 in the March quarter 2007, an increase of 13,582 persons (0.65%) from the previous quarter. The state's quarterly population growth was second highest behind Queensland (up 0.73%) but was well above the national increase of 0.46%. In the March quarter 2007, Western Australia recorded a natural increase of 4,334 persons (7,283 births less 2,949 deaths), while net overseas migration (up 8,014 persons) and net interstate migration (up 1,234 persons) also added to the state's population.

Social trends

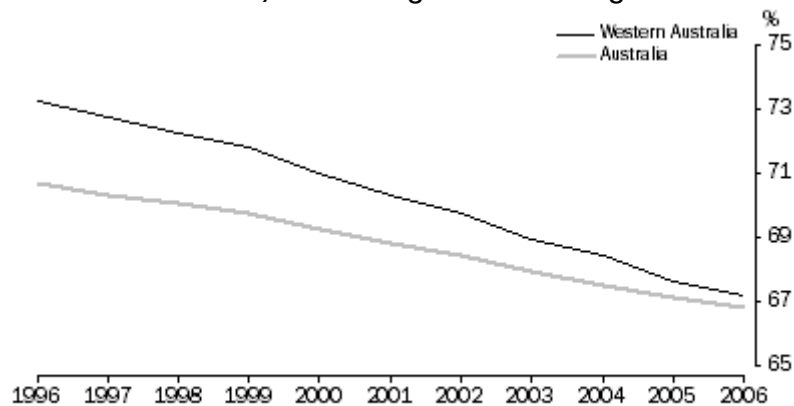


SOCIAL TRENDS

STUDENTS

In 2006, there were 342,600 full-time students attending primary and secondary schools in Western Australia, an increase of 1.3% from the 338,300 in 2005. The proportion of full-time students in the state's government schools fell from 73% to 67% between 1996 and 2006, reflecting the national trend of increased attendance at private schools. The rate of decline has been more rapid in Western Australia than for Australia, bringing the proportion of the state's students in government schools closer to the national average of 67% in 2006.

FULL-TIME STUDENTS, Percentage enrolled in government schools

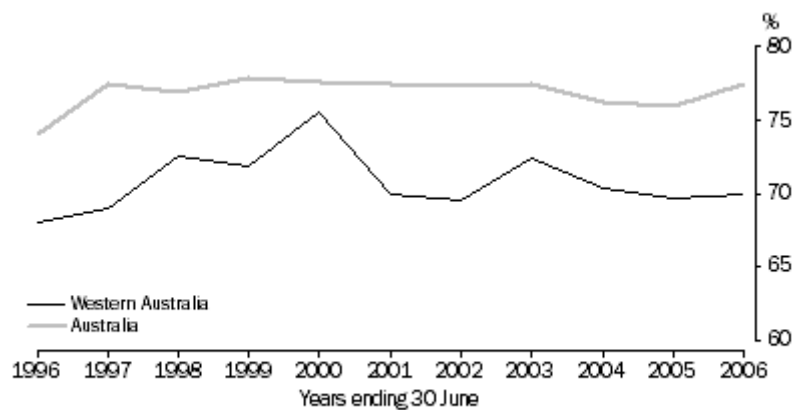


Source: Australian Social Trends, 2007, Education and Training datacube (cat. no. 4102.0).

EDUCATION PARTICIPATION

In 2006, 70% of 15-19 year-olds in Western Australia were participating in formal education, similar to the participation rate in 2005 (70%), but below the national average of 78%. The education participation rate of people aged 15-19 years in Western Australia has been consistently below the national average for the past decade. The disparity was lowest in 2000, when 75.5% of 15-19 year-olds were participating in formal education in Western Australia, compared to the national rate of 78%. The state participation rate for 15-19 year-olds fell markedly after this period and has not regained the high reached in 2000. The strong labour market in Western Australia may, in part, be contributing to lower education participation rates for this age group in recent years. Between 2001 and 2006, the labour force participation rate for persons aged 15-19 years in Western Australia increased from 63% to 68% and the unemployment rate decreased from 5.6% to 4.4%.

EDUCATION PARTICIPATION, Persons aged 15-19 years



Source: Australian Social Trends, 2007, Education and Training datacube (cat. no. 4102.0).

Between 2005 and 2006, the proportion of people aged 20-24 years participating in education in Western Australia fell from 35% to 31%. Nationally, the education participation rate for people aged 20-24 years also fell over this period (from 39% to 37%). Overall, education participation of 20-24 year-olds in Western Australia has been increasing over the past decade and the rate in 2006 remains higher than that recorded in 1996 (25%). Nationally, the education participation rate for this age group increased from 32% to 37% over the same period.

The increase in education participation is reflected in the growing proportion of people in Western Australia who have completed a non-school qualification. In 1996, 43% of people aged 15-64 years held a non-school qualification, compared to 52% in 2006.

LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES

Educational attainment and labour market outcomes are closely associated, in that, qualified people are less likely to be unemployed. Between 2005 and 2006, the unemployment rate of persons aged 15-64 years without a non-school qualification fell from 6.8% to 4.9%. Despite this large fall, the unemployment rate for people without qualifications remained well above that of those with a non-school qualification (2.3% in 2006).

Notes

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

December 2007
March 2008

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16 January 2008
1 April 2008

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

No changes in this issue.

INTERNET

This publication and all published feature articles can be downloaded free from the Australian Bureau of Statistics web site at <<https://www.abs.gov.au>>. Go to Themes-Regional-Western Australia-WA releases-1367.5 Western Australian Statistical Indicators.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 24 September 2007. Explanatory Notes of the form found in other ABS publications are not included in **Western Australian Statistical Indicators**. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Mike Thomas on Perth (08) 9360 5111.

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List of Historical Feature Articles

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Mar 2004	<u>Regional wage and salary earners in Western Australia</u>
	<u>The impact of migration on Western Australia's population</u>
Dec 2003	<u>The construction industry in Western Australia</u>
Sep 2003	<u>The winemaking industry in Western Australia</u>
Jun 2003	<u>Population measures: A case study</u>
	<u>Salinity and land management on Western Australia farms</u>
Mar 2003	<u>Demystifying chain volume measures</u>
Dec 2002	<u>Western Australia: A small area perspective</u>
Sep 2002	<u>Western Australia's age and sex distribution</u>
Jun 2002	<u>The resources industry in Western Australia</u>
	<u>Understanding population measures</u>
Mar 2002	<u>Interpreting time series data</u>
Dec 2001	<u>A view of housing density in Perth</u>
	<u>Educational participation in Western Australia</u>
Sep 2001	<u>A century of population change in Western Australia</u>
	<u>Foreign capital expenditure in Western Australia</u>
Jun 2001	<u>Use of information technology in Western Australia</u>
	<u>Methods of setting pay in Western Australia</u>
Mar 2001	<u>Crime and safety in Western Australia</u>
Dec 2000	<u>Small business in Western Australia</u>
Sep 2000	<u>Western Australia's' merchandise trade with the rest of the world</u>

About this Release

Contains the most recent statistics for Western Australia covering: state accounts; prices; consumption; investment and finance; construction; trade; mining and energy; agriculture; tourism; labour market; population; crime; and social trends. Quarterly issues include an analysis of recent movements in key state data, as well as feature articles reviewing aspects of Western Australia's economy and/or society.

Regional wage and salary earners in Western Australia - 2001–02 to 2003–04 (Feature Article)

**FEATURE ARTICLE 1: REGIONAL WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN
WESTERN AUSTRALIA - 2001-02 TO 2003-04**

INTRODUCTION

Western Australia has enjoyed a period of strong economic and population growth since 2001-02, underpinned by the state's booming construction and mining industries. Between 2001-02 and 2003-04, the Western Australian economy grew by an average of 6.2% per year and the population increased 1.4% (26,742 persons) per year. Rising employment opportunities and incomes have seen an influx of workers into the state, as well as a re-location of resident workers, both of which have brought about significant change in the distribution of wage and salary earners in Western Australia. Much of the recent growth in wage and salary earners has been concentrated in the outer metropolitan areas of Perth, inner Perth, Mandurah and areas surrounding Geraldton and Bunbury. The greatest increases in wage and salary incomes have been in the more affluent areas of Perth's inner west and in rejuvenated mining and other areas around Geraldton. Notably, the traditional mining areas of Kalgoorlie/Boulder, Coolgardie and East Pilbara have recorded relatively modest increases in wage and salary earners and incomes, albeit influenced by a high proportion of fly-in fly-out workers who may report their residence and income outside of these areas.

This analysis follows a previous article 'Regional wage and salary earners in Western Australia: 1996-97 to 2000-01' published in the March quarter 2004 issue of Western Australian Statistical Indicators (cat. no. 1367.5). Readers are directed to this article for information on data methodology, confidentiality, scope and coverage. Wage and salary earners are defined by the Australian Taxation Office as persons aged 15 years and over, who have submitted an individual income tax return and for whom wage and salary income was the principal source of income for the financial year. Wage and salary income includes gross income from wages and salaries, allowances, commissions, bonuses, tips, gratuities, consultation fees, honoraria and other payments for services. Throughout this article the term 'area(s)' is used to describe Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (cat. no. 1216.0), July 2006 edition.

METROPOLITAN AND NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS

From 2001-02 to 2003-04, the number of wage and salary earners grew 5.9% (43,255) to 771,395 in Western Australia, with the Perth metropolitan area accounting for over three quarters of the increase (up 6.2% or 34,271 to 583,862). Non-metropolitan wage and salary earners grew 5.4% (9,359) to 182,169. Average wage and salary incomes rose 10.1% (\$3,497) to \$38,284 per year in Western Australia between 2001-02 and 2003-04. For workers living in non-metropolitan areas, average wage and salary incomes rose 11.1% (\$3,740), slightly more than for those living in metropolitan Perth (up 9.7% or \$3,395). Despite the lower rate of growth, workers residing in metropolitan Perth still had higher average wage and salaries than workers residing outside of the Perth metropolitan area (\$38,448 compared to \$37,568 in 2003-04). However, the income disparity between the two areas narrowed from \$1,224 in 2001-02 to \$880 in 2003-04.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Western Australia

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Change from 2001-02 to 2003-04	% change from 2001-02 to 2003-04
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NUMBER			
Perth metropolitan area	549 591564 313583 862	34 271	6.2
Non-metropolitan Western Australia	172 810176 529182 169	9 359	5.4
<i>Total - Western Australia(a)</i>	<i>728 140745 734771 395</i>	<i>43 255</i>	<i>5.9</i>
AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME (\$)			
Perth metropolitan area	35 053 36 572 38 448	3 395	9.7
Non-metropolitan Western Australia	33 828 35 649 37 568	3 740	11.1
<i>Total - Western Australia(a)</i>	<i>34 788 36 386 38 284</i>	<i>3 497</i>	<i>10.1</i>

(a) Includes wage and salary earners and income not allocated to a region.
Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

A large concentration of wage and salary earners reside in Perth's urban fringe and along the south west corridor from Perth through to Rockingham and Mandurah. A large number also live in the major rural centres of Kalgoorlie/Boulder and Bunbury. Conversely, relatively few wage and salary earners reside in inland parts of Western Australia, where economic activity is limited or farming activity is prominent (farmers tend to be self employed workers, not wage and salary earners).

In 2003-04, Joondalup - South (49,198) had the largest number of wage and salary earners in Western Australia, followed by Melville (38,528) and Gosnells (37,338). Kalgoorlie/Boulder - Part A (14,144) and Bunbury (11,713) were the leading non-metropolitan areas. Rapid development along the south west corridor from Perth to Rockingham (30,290) and Mandurah (16,943) has also attracted large numbers of wage and salary earners. Very few wage and salary earners reside in the inland areas of Murchison (28), Sandstone (29), Menzies (47) and Kalgoorlie/Boulder - Part B (52).

NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By SLA - Western Australia - 2003-04

HIGHEST		LOWEST	
Joondalup - South	49 198	Murchison	28
Melville	38 528	Sandstone	29
Gosnells	37 338	Menzies	47
Swan	37 140	Kalgoorlie/Boulder - Part B	52
Stirling - Central	36 038	Westonia	65
Canning	32 719	Cue	70
Cockburn	30 592	Upper Gascoyne	71
Rockingham	30 290	Woodanilling	71
Stirling - Coastal	27 505	Nungarin	79
Bayswater	23 999	Wandering	84

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS

MAJOR INCREASES

Almost two thirds (65.2%) of all areas in Western Australia recorded an increase in wage and salary earners between 2001-02 and 2003-04 (101 of 155). The largest growth was recorded in Perth's outer metropolitan areas of Rockingham (3,131), Gosnells (3,032) and Swan (2,746). Mandurah (1,839) had the largest increase outside of the Perth metropolitan area. The fastest increase in wage and salary earners was recorded in Perth - Inner (45.3%), reflecting the rapid development of high density residential apartments and townhouses in and around the city centre. Aside from Perth, the fastest growth was in areas surrounding the major centres of Geraldton and Bunbury. Adjoining Geraldton, Greenough - Part B and Chapman Valley, recorded increases in wage and salary earners of 42.3% and 40.6% respectively, while a little further outside of Geraldton, Yalgoo (37.9%), also recorded a notable rise. Adjoining Bunbury, Capel - Part A, recorded a 40.4% increase in wage and salary earners. Conversely, the more traditional mining areas of Kalgoorlie/Boulder - Part A (1.9%), Coolgardie (6.6%) and East Pilbara (7.0%) recorded relatively lower rates of growth, partly reflecting the increased use of fly-in fly-out workers in these remote locations (fly-in fly-out workers may report their residence as being in other parts of the state).

NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By SLA - Western Australia - Change from 2001-02 to 2003-04

LARGEST INCREASE	no.	FASTEST INCREASE	%
Rockingham	3 131	Perth - Inner	45.3
Gosnells	3 032	Greenough - Part B	42.3
Swan	2 746	Chapman Valley	40.6
Cockburn	2 427	Capel - Part A	40.4
Wanneroo - North West	2 032	Yalgoo	37.9
Stirling - Central	1 972	Ngaanyatjarraku	33.1
Wanneroo - North East	1 867	Perth - Remainder	29.3
Wanneroo - South	1 851	Upper Gascoyne	29.1
Mandurah	1 839	Wanneroo - North East	21.2
Joondalup - North	1 635	Wanneroo - North West	20.6

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

MAJOR DECREASES

Just over one third (34.8%) of all areas in Western Australia recorded a decrease in wage and salary earners between 2001-02 and 2003-04 (54 of 155). Somewhat surprisingly, the largest decreases were in the more affluent areas of Cottesloe (132) and Nedlands (131), with Peppermint Grove (32) also showing a notable fall. These declines were however more likely a reflection of rising numbers of self employed workers in these areas, as well as an ageing population. All of the other areas in decline were located outside of the Perth metropolitan area, with Meekatharra recording the largest fall of 84 wage and salary earners. Meekatharra also showed the fastest decrease in wage and salary earners of 21.2%, followed by Tambellup (15.9%) and Dowerin (14.3%).

NUMBER OF WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By SLA - Western Australia - Change from 2001-02 to 2003-04

LARGEST DECREASE	no.	FASTEST DECREASE	%
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Cottesloe	-132	Meekatharra	-21.2
Nedlands	-131	Tambellup	-15.9
Meekatharra	-84	Dowerin	-14.3
Derby - West Kimberley	-73	Mullewa	-13.5
Carnarvon	-71	Wickepin	-12.7
Yilgarn	-68	Kent	-11.9
Leonora	-55	Mount Magnet	-11.1
Manjimup	-54	Yilgarn	-11.0
Dalwallinu	-50	Dalwallinu	-10.9
Wyndham - East Kimberley	-39	Leonora	-9.6

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES

A relatively low proportion of areas in Western Australia had wage and salary incomes above the state average. In 2003-04, less than one quarter of areas in Western Australia (34 of 155) reported average wage and salary incomes above the state average of \$38,284 per year. The highest annual incomes were reported in areas of Perth's inner west, including Peppermint Grove (\$60,364), Cottesloe (\$60,287), Nedlands (\$57,279), Claremont (\$56,988) and Subiaco (\$53,284). The proportion of residents earning more than \$52,000 per year in wage and salary income was much higher in Cottesloe (40.9%), Peppermint Grove (40.8%), Subiaco (40.8%) and Nedlands (39.6%) than across the state as a whole (25.3%). The major mining areas of Ashburton, Sandstone, Roebourne, East Pilbara and Leonora also recorded wage and salary incomes well above the state average, ranging from \$57,141 in Ashburton to \$51,890 in Leonora. Notably, one third (34.0%) of wage and salary earners in Ashburton earned more than \$78,000 per year.

Wheatbelt and other inland areas of Western Australia had the lowest wage and salary incomes in the state. In 2003-04, Wickepin (\$23,657), Tammin (\$25,437), Westonia (\$25,765), Narembeen (\$26,039) and Yalgoo (\$26,389) recorded average annual wage and salaries well below the state average. These results should, however, be interpreted with some caution given the high proportion of self employed workers and other atypical workforce characteristics in these areas.

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, By SLA - Western Australia - 2003-04

HIGHEST	\$	LOWEST	\$
Peppermint Grove	60 364	Wickepin	23 657
Cottesloe	60 287	Tammin	25 437
Nedlands	57 279	Westonia	25 765
Ashburton	57 141	Narembeen	26 039
Claremont	56 988	Yalgoo	26 389
Sandstone	54 382	Perenjori	26 609
Roebourne	54 186	Mukinbudin	27 068
East Pilbara	53 538	Kent	27 073
Subiaco	53 284	Kondinin	27 084
Leonora	51 890	Brookton	27 143

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

CHANGE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF WAGE AND SALARY INCOMES

MAJOR INCREASES

The vast majority (96.1%) of areas in Western Australia recorded growth in average annual wage and salary income between 2001-02 to 2003-04. The largest increases were in Perth's inner west, mining regions and areas surrounding Geraldton. Sandstone recorded the highest growth in average wage and salaries of \$13,069, followed by Peppermint Grove (\$10,209) and Cottesloe (\$10,135). Sandstone also had the fastest rise in average wage and salaries of 31.6% over the two year period, followed by other areas surrounding Geraldton: Chapman Valley (24.2%), Mingenew (23.8%), Victoria Plains (23.1%) and Mount Marshall (20.6%). In recent times, gold mining has re-emerged as the principal industry in Sandstone, while many people have re-located to other areas around Geraldton to work in local industries or commute to Geraldton for work. Carnamah (\$5,994), another area near Geraldton, has also had a major rise in wage and salary incomes, supported by heavy mineral sands mining activity in the area.

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, By SLA - Western Australia - Change from 2001-02 to 2003-04

LARGEST INCREASE	\$	FASTEST INCREASE	%
Sandstone	13 069	Sandstone	31.6
Peppermint Grove	10 209	Chapman Valley	24.2
Cottesloe	10 135	Mingenew	23.8
Roebourne	7 488	Victoria Plains	23.1
Nedlands	7 189	Mount Marshall	20.6
Claremont	6 923	Trayning	20.6
Chapman Valley	6 418	Peppermint Grove	20.4
Victoria Plains	6 126	Cottesloe	20.2
Mingenew	5 997	Broomehill	20.0
Carnamah	5 994	Kondinin	19.6

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

MAJOR DECREASES

Only six areas in Western Australia experienced a fall in average annual wage and salary incomes between 2001-02 and 2003-04. All of these areas were located in inland parts of the state where very few wage and salary earners reside. The largest fall in average wage and salaries was recorded in Cue (\$6,361), followed by Ngaanyatjaraku (\$3,929), Murchison (\$3,750) and Yalgoo (\$2,360). These four areas also recorded the fastest decrease in wage and salary incomes: Cue (17.4%), Murchison (11.9%), Ngaanyatjaraku (10.2%) and Yalgoo (8.2%).

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY INCOME, By SLA - Western Australia - Change from 2001-02 to 2003-04

LARGEST DECREASE	\$	FASTEST DECREASE	%
Cue	-6 361	Cue	-17.4
Ngaanyatjaraku	-3 929	Murchison	-11.9
Murchison	-3 750	Ngaanyatjaraku	-10.2
Yalgoo	-2 360	Yalgoo	-8.2
Wiluna	-833	Wiluna	-2.6
Westonia	-309	Westonia	-1.2

INFLUENCE OF SEX, AGE AND OCCUPATION ON WAGE AND SALARY INCOME

The workforce characteristics of sex, age and occupation have an influence on wages and salaries earned across Western Australia. Statistical evidence supports that, generally, workers who are male, above 35 years of age and employed in more skilled occupations tend to earn higher incomes than workers who are female, below 35 years of age and employed in less skilled occupations.

In Western Australia, 35.3% of male wage and salary earners earned in excess of \$52,000 per year in 2003-04, compared to only 10.0% of females. Furthermore, 39.0% of female wage and salary earners earned less than \$20,800 per year, compared to only 19.7% of males. In terms of age, wage and salary earners aged 35 and over had the highest proportion of workers (30.9%) earning in excess of \$52,000 per year in 2003-04 and a low proportion earning less than \$20,800 per year (20.2%). For those aged 15-34, only 14.0% earned above \$52,000 per year and 39.7% earned less than \$20,800 per year in 2003-04. This average was strongly influenced by wage and salary earners aged 15-24, with only 2.8% earning greater than \$52,000 per year and 59.8% earning less than \$20,800 per year.

At the broadest level of the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (cat. no. 1220.0), managers and administrators, professionals, associate professionals, and tradespersons and related workers are considered to be the highest skilled occupations. In 2003-04, 36.7% of wage and salary earners in these occupations combined earned above \$52,000 per year and only 15.7% earned less than \$20,800 per year. This compared to 11.5% earning above \$52,000 per year and 40.0% earning below \$20,800 per year for the remaining occupations combined.

WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, By sex, age, occupation and income range - Western Australia - 2003-04

	\$0 to less than \$20,800		\$20,800 to less than \$52,000		\$52,000 and over		Total	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
SEX								
Male	81 347	19.7	185 274	44.9	145 579	35.3	412 200	100.0
Female	140 110	39.0	183 140	51.0	35 937	10.0	359 187	100.0
<i>Total - Western Australia(a)</i>	<i>221 457</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>368 414</i>	<i>47.8</i>	<i>181 516</i>	<i>23.5</i>	<i>771 387</i>	<i>100.0</i>
AGE								
15-24	92 328	59.8	57 587	37.3	4 379	2.8	154 294	100.0
25-34	41 021	22.6	97 819	53.9	42 484	23.4	181 324	100.0
35-44	38 843	21.4	83 891	46.3	58 557	32.3	181 291	100.0
45-54	29 816	17.9	83 321	50.0	53 505	32.1	166 642	100.0
55 and over	19 485	22.2	45 777	52.1	22 640	25.887	902	100.0

<i>Total - Western Australia(a)</i>	221 457	28.7	368 414	47.8	181 516	23.5	771 387	100.0
OCCUPATION								
Managers and administrators	6 439	10.6	27 033	44.6	27 147	44.8	60 619	100.0
Professionals	21 051	15.1	63 072	45.1	55 623	39.8	139 746	100.0
Associate professionals	9 843	17.0	29 501	51.0	18 480	32.0	57 824	100.0
Tradespersons and related workers	16 825	19.6	43 805	51.1	25 077	29.3	85 707	100.0
Advanced clerical and service workers	5 267	25.9	13 063	64.3	1 989	9.8	20 319	100.0
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	49 006	37.2	72 362	54.9	10 347	7.9	131 715	100.0
Intermediate production and transport workers	10 567	18.2	27 995	48.3	19 414	33.5	57 976	100.0
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	43 660	60.3	26 997	37.3	1 782	2.5	72 439	100.0
Labourers and related workers	33 153	46.3	31 351	43.8	7 140	10.0	71 644	100.0
<i>Total - Western Australia(a)(b)</i>	221 457	28.7	368 414	47.8	181 516	23.5	771 387	100.0

(a) Component items may not sum to totals due to cells being randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data.

(b) Includes the category 'Not stated'.

Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

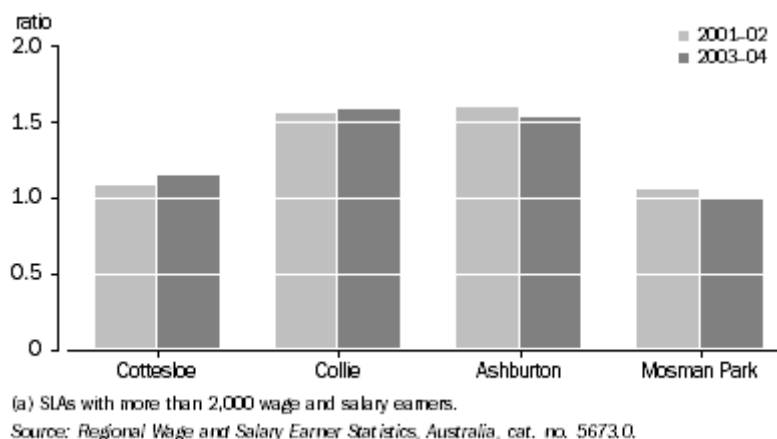
Given these relationships, changes in the characteristics of an area's workforce can have a pronounced effect on average wage and salaries earned in an area. The following section investigates areas of Western Australia showing major workforce changes between 2001-02 and 2003-04 and the impact it has had on average wages and salaries. Areas with less than 2,000 wage and salary earners were excluded from the analysis, given the exaggerated effect on average incomes of workforce changes in areas with very few wage and salary earners.

MAJOR CHANGES IN WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

SEX

Perth's inner west and major mining areas of Western Australia recorded the largest movements in the ratio of male-female wage and salary earners between 2001-02 and 2003-04. The ratio of male to female workers rose substantially in Cottesloe (1.08 to 1.14), Collie (1.55 to 1.59), Murray (1.30 to 1.33), Roebourne (1.39 to 1.42) and Port Hedland (1.39 to 1.41). The largest decreases were recorded in Ashburton (1.60 to 1.53), Mosman Park (1.06 to 1.00), East Pilbara (1.52 to 1.46), Claremont (1.09 to 1.03) and Dardanup - Part A (1.36 to 1.30). These areas of Western Australia also showed significant change in wage and salary incomes over the period.

RATIO OF MALE TO FEMALE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, SLAs(a) with largest increases and decreases: Western Australia

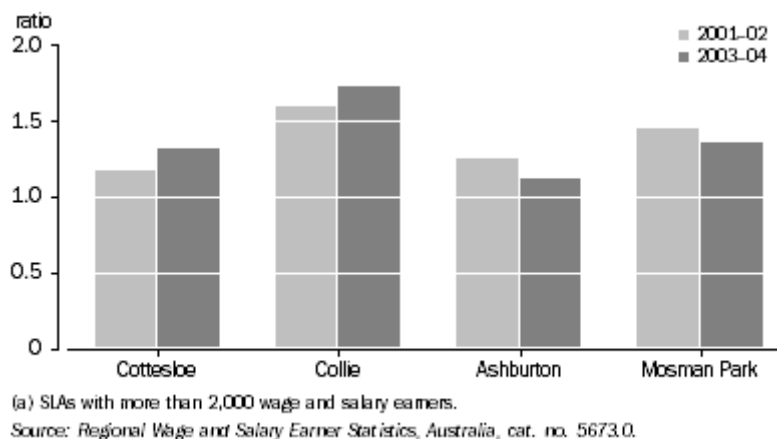


The areas of Western Australia with the largest increases in the ratio of male to female workers between 2001-02 and 2003-04 (Cottesloe, Collie, Murray, Roebourne and Port Hedland) recorded a combined increase in average annual wage and salary incomes of \$6,175 (14.1%), much higher than the state average increase of \$3,497 (10.1%). Among these areas, income growth ranged from \$4,007 (11.9%) in Murray to \$10,135 (20.2%) in Cottesloe. The areas recording the largest falls in the ratio of male to female workers (Ashburton, Mosman Park, East Pilbara, Claremont and Dardanup - Part A) showed more modest growth in average incomes over the period (\$4,534 or 9.9% combined). Among these areas, income growth ranged from \$2,350 (5.2%) in Mosman Park to \$6,923 (13.8%) in Claremont.

AGE

Very similar areas of Western Australia recorded major changes in the age profile of wage and salary earners between 2001-03 and 2003-04. The largest increases in the ratio of wage and salary earners aged 35 and above to those aged 15-34 were reported in Cottesloe (1.17 to 1.32), Collie (1.59 to 1.73), Broome (0.97 to 1.10), Harvey - Part B (1.34 to 1.47) and East Fremantle (1.71 to 1.83). The largest decreases in the age ratio were recorded in Ashburton (1.25 to 1.12), Mosman Park (1.44 to 1.36), Cambridge (1.39 to 1.34), Subiaco (1.36 to 1.32) and East Pilbara (1.45 to 1.41).

RATIO OF 35+ TO 15-34 AGED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, SLAs(a) with largest increases and decreases: Western Australia



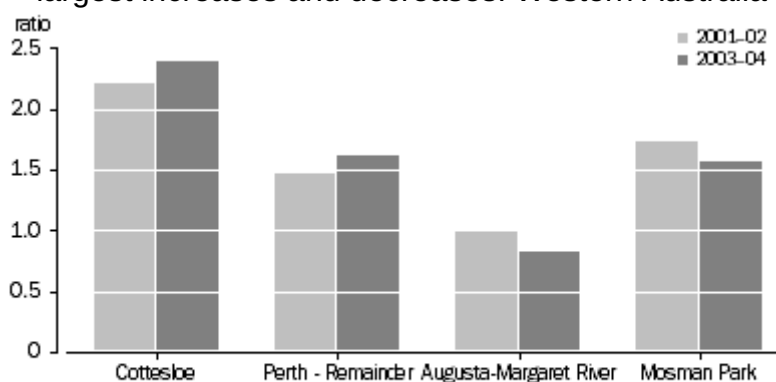
Generally, workers aged 35 and over earn higher incomes than those aged 15-34. The areas showing the largest increases in the ratio of workers aged 35 and above to those aged 15-34 (Cottesloe, Collie, Broome, Harvey - Part B and East Fremantle) recorded a combined rise in average annual wage and salary incomes of \$4,925 (12.8%) from 2001-02 to 2003-04, higher than the state average increase of \$3,497 (10.1%). Among these areas, income growth ranged from \$3,050 (9.0%) in Broome to \$10,135 (20.2%) in Cottesloe. The areas recording the largest declines in the ratio of workers aged 35 and over to those aged 15-34 showed lower income growth over the two years (\$4,402 or 9.3% for Ashburton, Mosman Park, Cambridge, Subiaco and East Pilbara combined). Among these areas, income growth ranged from \$2,350 (5.2%) in Mosman Park to \$5,816 (11.3%) in Ashburton.

OCCUPATION (OR SKILLS)

Changes in the mix of occupations (or skills) across Western Australia's workforce has also influenced wages and salaries earned across the state. Areas gaining more skilled workers (or losing less skilled workers) have tended to see stronger income growth than those areas losing more skilled workers (or gaining less skilled workers). For the purposes of this analysis, skilled occupations are: managers and administrators; professionals; associate professionals; and tradespersons and related workers. Less skilled occupations are: advanced clerical and service workers; intermediate, clerical, sales and service workers; intermediate production and transport workers; elementary, clerical, sales and service workers; and labourers and related workers.

Areas of metropolitan Perth and south west Western Australia showed the largest changes in the occupations of wage and salary earners in the state. Between 2001-02 and 2003-04, the ratio of skilled to less skilled wage and salary earners rose substantially in Cottesloe (2.21 to 2.38), Perth - Remainder (1.47 to 1.62), East Fremantle (1.77 to 1.88), Claremont (1.86 to 1.97) and Kalgoorlie/Boulder - Part A (0.86 to 0.95). The largest declines in the ratio of skilled to less skilled workers were in Augusta-Margaret River (1.01 to 0.83), Mosman Park (1.74 to 1.57), Albany - Balance (0.91 to 0.83), Albany - Central (0.91 to 0.84) and Mundaring (1.09 to 1.03).

RATIO OF SKILLED TO LESS SKILLED WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, SLAs(a) with largest increases and decreases: Western Australia



(a) SLAs with more than 2,000 wage and salary earners.

Source: Regional Wage and Salary Earner Statistics, Australia, cat. no. 5673.0.

The areas showing the largest increases in the ratio of skilled to less skilled workers (Cottesloe, Perth - Remainder, East Fremantle, Claremont and Kalgoorlie/Boulder - Part A)

recorded a combined increase in average annual wage and salary incomes of \$4,857 (11.2%) between 2001-02 and 2003-04, higher than the state average increase of \$3,497 (10.1%). The areas showing the largest decreases in the ratio of skilled to less skilled workers (Augusta-Margaret River, Mosman Park, Albany - Balance, Albany - Central and Mundaring combined) recorded a much lower rise in average incomes of \$2,878 (8.9%). Of the areas recording the largest gains in skilled to less skilled workers, income growth ranged from \$3,774 (9.1%) in Kalgoorlie/Boulder - Part A to \$10,135 (20.2%) in Cottesloe. Of the areas recording the largest declines in the skilled to less skilled worker ratio, growth in wages and salaries ranged from \$2,350 (5.2%) in Mosman Park to \$3,175 (9.3%) in Mundaring.

Cultural diversity in Western Australia (Feature Article)

FEATURE ARTICLE 2: CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INTRODUCTION

Western Australia has a diverse population, comprising people born in a variety of countries and having a range of ethnic, language and religious backgrounds. Throughout Western Australia's history, migration has had a significant impact on the characteristics of the population. As well as contributing to population growth, migration patterns have largely influenced the range of cultures in Western Australia.

The composition of the population is of widespread interest and has implications in policy and planning. This analysis provides some insight into the composition of the usual resident Western Australian population by examining data from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Data from the Census are used to highlight characteristics of the population, focusing on birthplace, ancestry, language and religion. Changes over time are considered at a state level and comparisons between Western Australian regions and Australia are made.

BIRTHPLACE

The majority of Western Australians are Australian born. However, many were born in different parts of the world. Birthplace information allows for comparison of people born in Australia and overseas, as well as between different countries of birth.

AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS-BORN RESIDENTS, Western Australia - 2006

Birthplace	PERSONS no.	PROPORTION OF WA RESIDENTS %
Australia	1 279 226	65.3
Overseas	530 541	27.1
Not stated or inadequately described(a)	149 320	7.6
Total	1 959 087	100.0

(a) Includes persons at sea or not elsewhere classified.
2006 Census of Population and Housing.

AUSTRALIAN-BORN RESIDENTS

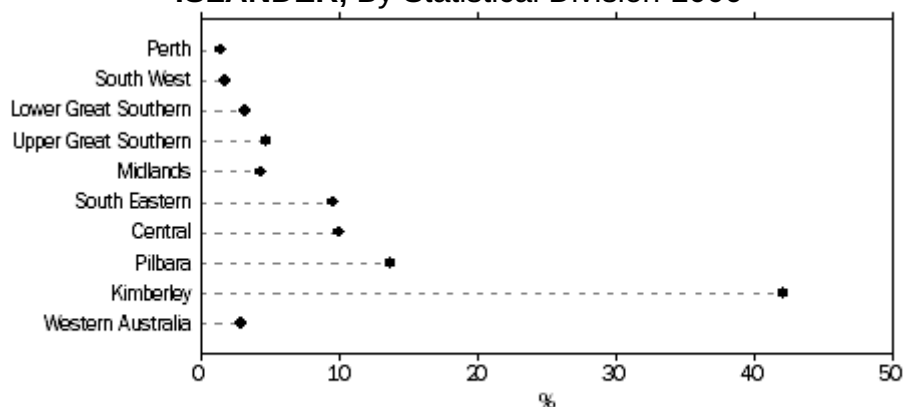
In 2006, nearly two thirds of Western Australian residents reported that they were born in Australia (65% or 1,279,000). This was lower than the national figure (71%) and slightly lower than for Western Australia in 1996 (69%). The proportion of Australian-born residents was higher in regional areas than it was in Perth Statistical Division (SD) (76% compared to 62%). This reflects Perth being the principal settlement destination in Western Australia for overseas-born migrants. One third of people who were born in Australia (34% or 431,600) had at least one parent born overseas, while 13% (172,300) had both of their parents born overseas.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

In the 2006 Census, around 3% of Western Australian residents identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, while 90% of residents responded that they were not of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. The remaining 7% of Western Australian residents did not state whether or not they were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.

More than one third of the state's Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people lived in the Perth SD (36%). However, this group represented only 1.5% of the total Perth SD population. The Kimberley SD had by far the highest proportion of its population who identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin (42%). While having only 1.5% of the total Western Australian population, the Kimberley SD had more than one fifth (21%) of the state's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

PROPORTION OF WA RESIDENTS IDENTIFIED AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER, By Statistical Division-2006



Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing

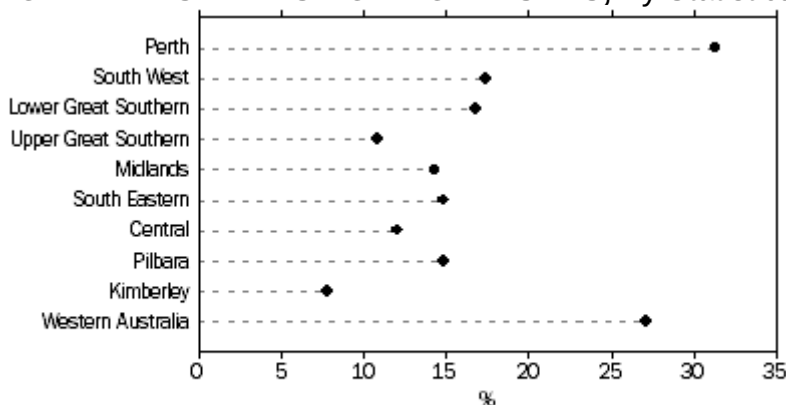
OVERSEAS-BORN RESIDENTS

Although a large proportion of Western Australian residents were born in Australia, overseas-born residents comprise a significant part of the population. In 2006, 27% (530,500) of Western Australian residents reported that they were born overseas - a similar proportion to 1996 (28%). Western Australia had the highest proportion of overseas-born

residents of all states and territories and compares to 22% for Australia. There were slightly more overseas-born females (51% or 269,800) than males (49% or 260,700) in Western Australia in 2006 and almost two thirds of overseas-born Western Australian residents were Australian citizens (66% or 351,400).

At the Statistical Division level, the Perth SD had the highest proportion of its resident population born overseas (31%) in 2006, followed by the South West SD (17%) and Lower Great Southern SD (17%). The Kimberley SD had the lowest proportion of its population born overseas (7.8%).

PROPORTION OF WA RESIDENTS BORN OVERSEAS, By Statistical Division-2006



Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Across Local Government Areas (LGAs), Perth (C) had the highest proportion of residents born overseas (44%), followed by Canning (C) (38%), Wanneroo (C) (35%), Joondalup (C) (35%) and Victoria Park (T) (35%). Each of these LGAs were in the Perth SD. Also within the Perth SD, Cottesloe (T) (21%) and Peppermint Grove (S) (22%) had the lowest proportions of overseas-born residents. Outside of the Perth SD, Denmark (S) had the highest proportion of overseas-born residents (24%), while Ngaanyatjaraku (S) and Halls Creek (S) had the lowest proportions (0.7% and 2.6% respectively).

COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Overseas-born people in Western Australia come from almost all countries and every continent apart from Antarctica. The 2006 Census recorded approximately 200 birthplaces for Western Australian residents. In 2006, the top five birthplaces for overseas-born residents in Western Australia were:

- England (174,200 people or 33% of overseas-born residents);
- New Zealand (47,300 or 8.9%);
- Scotland (24,400 or 4.6%);
- South Africa (22,000 or 4.2%); and
- Italy (20,900 or 3.9%).

England and New Zealand were also the most frequently reported birthplaces for Western Australian residents in 1996, then comprising 36% and 8.2% of overseas-born residents respectively.

Across the nation, England was the top birthplace accounting for 19% of overseas-born residents in 2006, well ahead of New Zealand (8.8%), China (4.7%), Italy (4.5%) and Viet Nam (3.6%). In contrast, Viet Nam and China were ranked ninth (2.0%) and thirteenth (1.5%) in Western Australia.

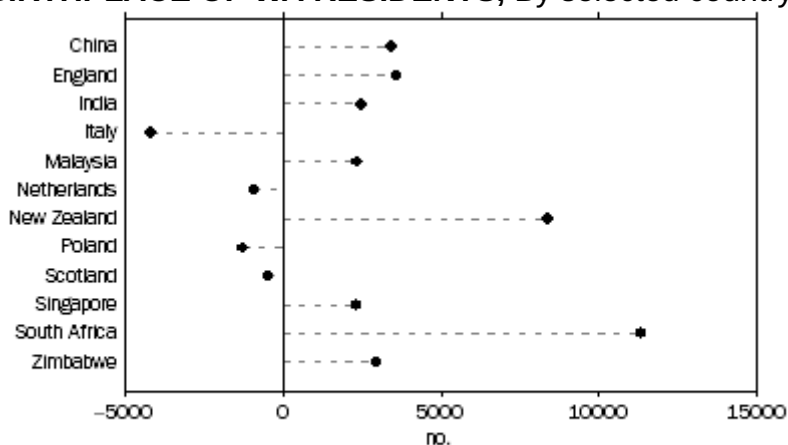
MOST FREQUENTLY REPORTED BIRTHPLACES, Western Australian residents born overseas

1996				2006			AUSTRALIA RANK
Rank		PERSONS	PROPORTION OF OVERSEAS BORN WA RESIDENTS		PERSONS	PROPORTION OF OVERSEAS BORN WA RESIDENTS	
		no.	%		no.	%	
1	England	170 596	35.9	England	174 190	32.8	1
2	New Zealand	38 917	8.2	New Zealand	47 331	8.9	2
3	Italy	25 113	5.3	Scotland	24 418	4.6	7
4	Scotland	24 877	5.2	South Africa	22 050	4.2	11
5	Malaysia	17 355	3.7	Italy	20 937	3.9	4
6	India	12 668	2.7	Malaysia	19 718	3.7	12
7	Netherlands	11 000	2.3	India	15 155	2.9	6
8	South Africa	10 702	2.3	Singapore	11 811	2.2	26
9	Viet Nam	10 080	2.1	Viet Nam	10 489	2.0	5
10	Germany	9 955	2.1	Netherlands	10 108	1.9	13
11	Singapore	9 469	2.0	Germany	9 895	1.9	10
12	Ireland	9 395	2.0	Ireland	9 011	1.7	22
13	Poland	6 984	1.5	China	8 004	1.5	3
14	Indonesia	6 076	1.3	Indonesia	7 884	1.5	21
15	Burma	5 587	1.2	Philippines	6 832	1.3	8

1996 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

Between 1996-2006, the largest increases in the number of overseas-born people in Western Australia were from South Africa (11,300), New Zealand (8,400), England (3,600), China (3,400) and Zimbabwe (3,000). Italy had the largest decrease of 4,200 people.

CHANGE IN BIRTHPLACE OF WA RESIDENTS, By selected country: 1996 to 2006



Source: 1996 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

YEAR OF ARRIVAL

Changes have occurred in the origin of people migrating to Western Australia over time. Following the Second World War, many European born people came to Western Australia, while in more recent times, many migrants have come from places closer to Australia in the Asia-Pacific region and Africa.

The majority of Italian-born residents in Western Australia in 2006 had arrived in Australia in the years following the Second World War. More than one third (38% or 8,000) arrived between 1947-1956 and a further 30% (6,300) arrived between 1957-1966. Only 7.5% (1,600) of Italian-born residents arrived after 1977. (Note that 6.5% of Italian-born residents did not state their year of arrival).

Nearly one third (30% or 52,500) of English-born residents in Western Australia in 2006 arrived in the decade 1967-1976. By comparison, only 14% (24,200) arrived between 1977-1986. Arrivals of English-born residents increased from 1987 onwards, but not at their former levels.

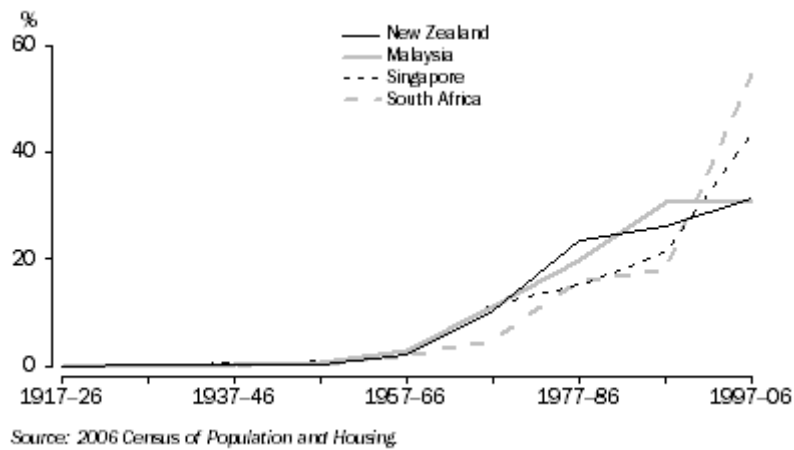
Just over two fifths (22% or 5,400) of Scottish-born residents in Western Australia in 2006 arrived in the period 1967-1976. Results were lower in the following two decades of 1977-1986 (16% or 3,900) and 1987-1996 (15% or 3,700). However, the proportion of Scottish-born residents arriving between 1997-2006 was slightly higher than in the preceding two decades (17% or 4,100).

YEAR OF ARRIVAL OF WA RESIDENTS, By selected country of birth-2006



In contrast, more than half (54% or 12,000) of South African-born residents of Western Australia arrived in Australia between 1997-2006. The vast majority of all South African-born residents (89%) stated that they arrived in 1977 or later (4.0% did not state their year of arrival). Similarly, most residents born in Malaysia (81%), New Zealand (81%) and Singapore (80%) stated that they arrived in Australia from 1977 onwards (around 5% of people from these countries did not state their year of arrival).

YEAR OF ARRIVAL OF WA RESIDENTS, By selected country of birth-2006



RECENT ARRIVALS

The most frequently reported birthplaces for Western Australian residents who arrived in Australia between 2001-2006 differed from those of people who arrived earlier. The largest proportions of residents who arrived between 2001-2006 were born in North-West Europe (32%), South East Asia (17%) and Sub-Saharan Africa (17%). The top five countries of birth for people who arrived between 2001-2006 were:

- England (21,300 or 23% of people);
- New Zealand (8,500 or 9.2%);
- South Africa (8,000 or 8.5%);
- Malaysia (4,700 or 5.0%); and
- Singapore (3,800 or 4.1%).

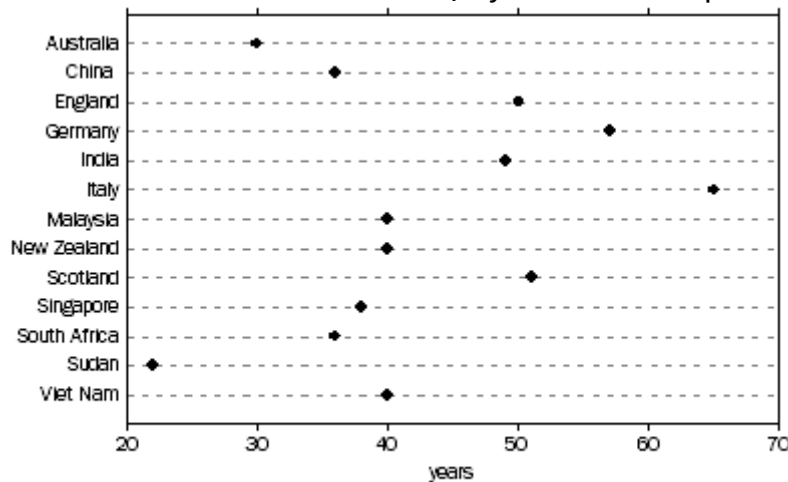
Scotland and Italy, which had the third and fifth largest number of overseas-born residents in Western Australia in 2006, were ranked eighth and thirty fifth in terms of arrivals between 2001-2006.

MEDIAN AGE

Migration patterns over time have contributed to large variations in the median ages of overseas-born Western Australian residents. In 2006, the median age of Australian-born people in Western Australia was 30 years. It was much lower for Indigenous than non-Indigenous residents (21 compared to 37 years). The median age of overseas-born residents was much higher (46 years).

Western Australian residents born in Italy had a median age of 65 years in 2006, which was amongst the highest of all countries. This reflects the fact that most Italian-born residents arrived in Australia more than thirty years ago. By comparison, more recent arrivals generally had lower median ages. For example, the median ages of migrants from South Africa and Singapore were 36 and 38 years respectively. Western Australian residents born in Sudan had one of the lowest median ages of 22 years. The majority (91%) of the 2,000 residents born in Sudan stated that they arrived in Australia after 1991, with 78% arriving after 2001. (Note that 5.7% did not state their year of arrival).

MEDIAN AGE OF WA RESIDENTS, By selected birthplace-2006



Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing

AUSTRALIAN AND OVERSEAS-BORN RESIDENTS - SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Census data highlights differences across a range of characteristics between overseas-born and Australian-born Western Australian residents. In 2006, overseas-born residents were more likely than Australian-born residents to:

- have completed year 12 or its equivalent level of schooling (50% compared to 30%);
- be married (56% compared to 33%);
- have had children (35% compared to 24% of women aged 15 years or over);
- have cared for children without pay in the two weeks prior to Census night (27% compared to 22%);
- either have undertaken no hours of unpaid domestic work (20% compared to 15%) or 30 hours or more (12% compared to 9.4%) in the week prior to Census night;
- be out of the labour force (37% compared to 30% of people aged 15 years and over); and
- fully own their home (31% compared to 25%).

By comparison, Australian-born residents were more likely to:

- have a mortgage (44% compared to 38%); and
- be employed (66% compared to 59% of people aged 15 years and over).

These differences in employment status and home ownership can largely be explained by the older age structure of overseas-born residents of Western Australia.

ANCESTRY

A person's birthplace alone is a limited indicator of their cultural or ethnic background as it does not reflect birthplaces of previous generations. Ancestry information, however, provides an indication of the background of Australians across generations. Respondents could report up to two ancestries in response to the Census question. Ancestry was collected for the first time in 2001 and the top five ancestries were the same in 2001 and

2006. In 2006, the top five ancestries for Western Australian residents were:

- English (731,000 people);
- Australians (718,900);
- Irish (155,200);
- Scottish (153,600); and
- Italian (102,000).

In 2006, nearly three quarters of residents with Irish and Italian ancestry (both 74%) were born in Australia. The proportions of residents with Scottish or English ancestry who were born in Australia were slightly lower (69% and 68% respectively). Across the Statistical Divisions of Western Australia, Lower Great Southern SD and South West SD had the highest proportions of residents with English ancestry (both with 43%). The Kimberley SD had the highest proportion of its population with Australian ancestry (59%), reflecting the region's high proportion of Indigenous residents. In contrast, Perth SD had the lowest proportion of residents with Australian ancestry (33%).

LANGUAGE

Diversity of birthplaces and ancestries is associated with a large range of languages. The 2006 Census recorded that just under 300 languages were spoken in homes in Western Australia and almost 400 across Australia.

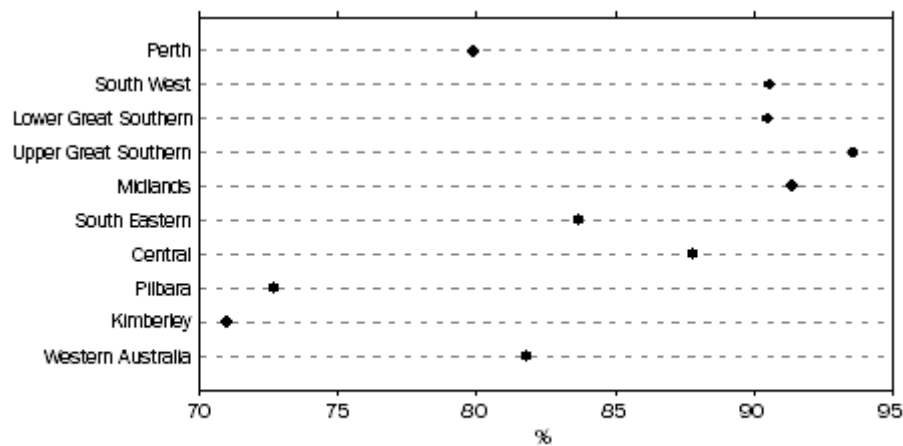
PEOPLE WHO SPOKE ONLY ENGLISH

In 2006, 82% (1,603,000) of Western Australian residents stated that they spoke only English at home, compared to 78% for Australia. The proportion of Western Australians who spoke only English at home had decreased from 86% in 1996.

Three quarters of residents who spoke only English at home were born in Australia (75% or 1,205,000). Australian-born residents were much more likely than overseas-born residents to speak only English at home (94% compared to 69%). In 2006, the proportion of residents who spoke only English at home was higher in regional areas than in Perth (87% compared to 80%).

Across Statistical Divisions, Upper Great Southern SD had the highest proportion of residents who spoke only English at home (94%). Kimberley SD had the lowest proportion (71%) with 3,600 residents (12%) speaking an Australian Indigenous language. The Kimberley SD also had a high proportion of residents who did not state their language (14% compared to 7% for Western Australia).

PROPORTION OF WA RESIDENTS WHO SPOKE ONLY ENGLISH AT HOME, By Statistical Division-2006



Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing

PEOPLE WHO SPOKE ANOTHER LANGUAGE

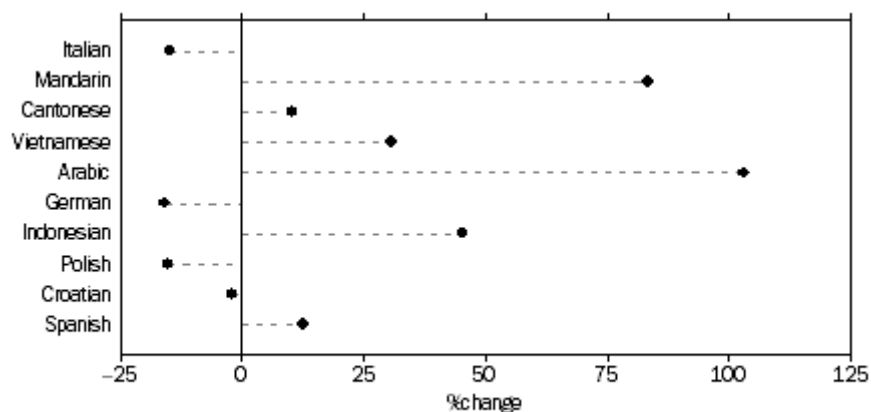
In 2006, 222,100 (11%) Western Australian residents stated that they spoke a language other than English at home. The most frequently reported of these languages were:

- Italian (32,900 people);
- Mandarin (16,600);
- Cantonese (16,000);
- Vietnamese (13,200); and
- Arabic (7,700).

Apart from Arabic, these languages were also in the top five in 1996 (Arabic was then ranked sixteenth). The number of Arabic speakers more than doubled between 1996-2006 (up 3,900 people or 103%). Between 1996-2006, the number of Western Australian residents born in Iraq (1,100), Somalia (500) and Ethiopia (400) showed the largest increase among Arabic speaking nations.

Mandarin speakers had the largest increase between 1996-2006 (up 7,500 people or 83%). Numbers of Vietnamese and Cantonese speakers also increased by 3,100 and 1,500 people respectively. In contrast, the number of Italian speakers declined by 5,700 people (15%) in the ten year period to 2006. German was the fifth ranked language spoken in 1996, but recorded a fall in the number of speakers of 1,300 people (16%) between 1996-2006.

CHANGE IN NUMBER OF SPEAKERS FROM 1996 TO 2006, Top 10 languages spoken by WA residents (2006)



Source: 1996 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

More than two fifths (42%) of people who spoke Italian at home stated that they were born in Australia. This partially reflects second and third generations speaking the language. Other languages with high proportions of Australian-born speakers were Croatian (32%) and Vietnamese (29%). In contrast, lower proportions of people who spoke Mandarin (12%) and Indonesian (14%) at home stated that they were born in Australia.

The majority of Mandarin (97%), Cantonese (97%), Arabic (97%), Vietnamese (96%) and Italian (90%) speakers resided in Perth, while among Statistical Divisions, South West SD had the largest number of Italian speakers outside of the Perth SD (2,100 or 6.4% of Italian speakers).

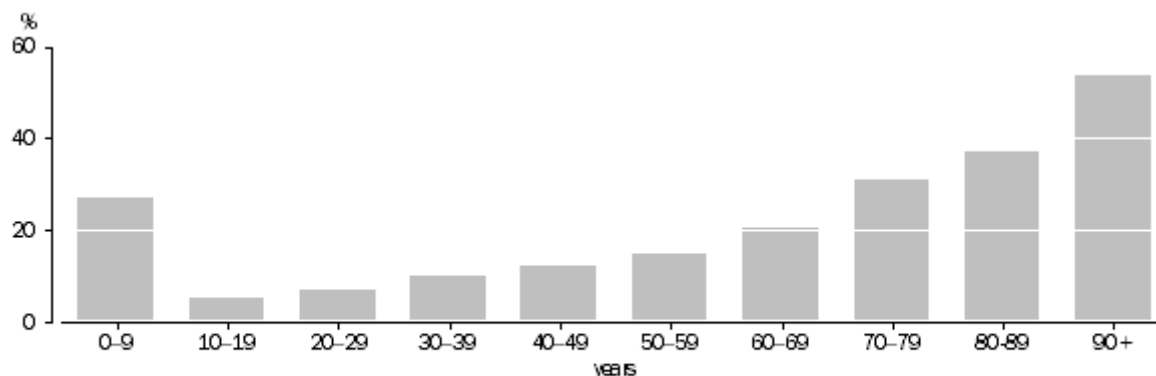
PROFICIENCY IN SPOKEN ENGLISH

Although people may communicate in more than one language, a person's proficiency in spoken English is an indicator of their ability to share information, to interact with and relate to others in Australia. This is important for their full participation and sense of belonging in the wider community. Those who are not proficient may be disadvantaged in many areas, including employment prospects and social interaction.

Census data provides information on a person's self-assessed proficiency in spoken English. In 2006, more than four fifths (83%) of all people who spoke a language other than English reported that they spoke English either well or very well; 12% did not speak English well and 2.9% did not speak English at all. The remaining 1.9% did not state their proficiency in spoken English.

Generally, the likelihood of not having proficiency in spoken English increased with age. The proportion of people aged 65 years or over, who did not speak English well or at all, was much higher than across all ages (31% compared to 15%).

PROPORTION OF WA RESIDENTS WHO SPOKE A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH & WERE NOT PROFICIENT IN ENGLISH(a), By age group-2006



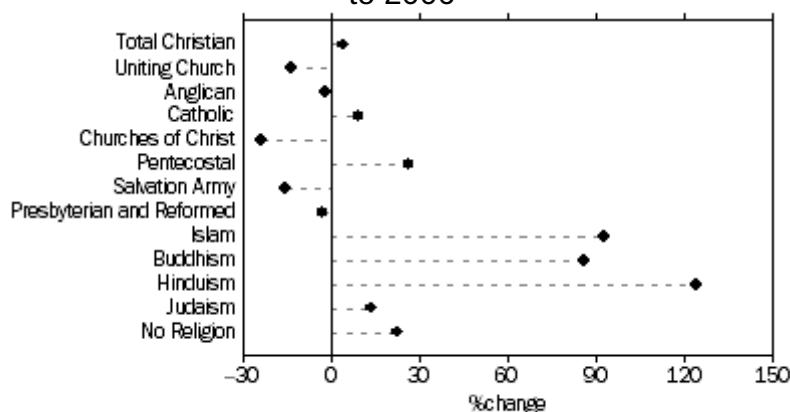
(a) People who did not speak English well or at all.

Source: 2006 Census of Population and Housing

RELIGION

Western Australia also has a diverse range of religions and its religious profile is changing. A question on religious denomination has been included in all Australian Censuses, although this question has always been optional.

CHANGE IN RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS OF WA RESIDENTS, By selected religion: 1996 to 2006



Source: 1996 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing

CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

Christianity has remained the dominant religion in Western Australia. In 2006, more than half (59% or 1,163,000) of all Western Australian residents reported that they were Christian. This compares to 64% nationally and was the second lowest proportion of all states and territories. Only the Northern Territory had a lower proportion (55%).

Despite the number of Western Australian residents who were Christian increasing by 43,100 people between 1996-2006, the proportion of the population decreased from 66% to 59%. In 2006, a higher proportion of Christians was female than male (53% compared to 47% respectively). The proportion of Christian residents was similar for Perth and rest of the state (60% and 58% respectively). Across Statistical Divisions, Upper Great Southern SD had the highest proportion of residents who were Christian (66%), while the Pilbara SD had

the lowest (45%). The Pilbara SD had the highest proportion of people who did not state their religion (24% compared to 14% statewide).

CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

In 2006, the most frequently reported Christian denominations in Western Australia were Catholic (464,000 people or 24%) and Anglican (400,500 people or 20%). Kimberley SD had the highest proportion of residents who stated that they were Catholic (28%) and nearly half (49%) of them lived in the Shire of Broome. In contrast, the Lower Great Southern SD had the lowest proportion of people reporting to be Catholic (14%). Upper Great Southern SD (27%) and Midlands SD (27%) had the highest proportions of residents who were Anglican. Kimberley SD had the lowest proportion of Anglican residents (10%).

From 1996 to 2006, Catholicism had the largest increase in numbers (up 37,700 people or 8.9%). The Uniting Church (11,900 people or 14%) and Anglican (8,000 or 2.0%) religions recorded the largest decreases. The fastest growing Christian denomination was Pentecostal, which increased 26% (3,700 people). Churches of Christ had the fastest decline of 24% (3,100 people).

NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

In 2006, the most frequently reported non-Christian religious affiliations in Western Australia were Buddhism (34,400 people or 1.8%), Islam (24,200 people or 1.2%) and Hinduism (8,200 people or 0.4%). More females than males stated Buddhism as their religion (53% compared to 47%). The majority of people with non-Christian religions were residents of Perth SD (93% of Hindu, 92% Islam and 91% of Buddhist religions respectively).

Between 1996-2006, there was considerable growth in non-Christian religions in Western Australia. Buddhism had the largest growth in numbers (15,800 people or 86%). Islam increased by 11,600 people with a much higher growth rate for Western Australia than Australia (92% compared to 69%). Hinduism had the fastest growth rate of all religions, increasing 124% (4,500 people).

NO RELIGION

In 2006, 23% (448,400) of Western Australian residents stated that they had no religion. This proportion was higher than for Australia (19%) and compares to 22% (366,800 people) for Western Australia in 1996. A higher proportion of people who reported no religion were male than female (54% compared to 46%). People born in Australia were more likely than those born overseas to have no religion (27% compared to 18%). The proportion of residents with no religion was highest in the Lower Great Southern SD (28%). Kimberley SD had the lowest proportion (21%).

SUMMARY

Western Australia has a multicultural population, with the highest proportion of overseas-born residents of all states and territories. A higher proportion of overseas-born people reside in Perth compared to regional areas.

England and New Zealand were the most common countries of birth for Western Australian residents in both 1996 and 2006. Over the ten year period, Italy had the largest decline in numbers of people. It has one of the oldest populations with relatively few migrants arriving in the last 30 years. Residents from South Africa and New Zealand had the largest increases in numbers in the ten year period.

Apart from English, Italian remains the most widely spoken language in Western Australia, although the number of speakers declined between 1996-2006. Mandarin had the largest increase in the number of speakers, while Arabic was proportionally the fastest growing language.

Christianity has remained the dominant religion, however, the proportion of Christians has decreased. Catholicism and Buddhism had the largest increases in numbers. Growth rates for non-Christian religions were faster than for Christian religions and Hinduism had the fastest growth rate of all religions. Most people reporting non-Christian religions lived in Perth.

Over time the combination of birthplaces, ancestries, languages and religions has changed. The social, political and economic environment both in Australia and overseas is constantly changing, and this could continue to alter Western Australia's population characteristics.